

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Claims 58-62 have been withdrawn without prejudice. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 5, as originally presented. Claim 14 has been amended to change its dependency from Claim 1 to Claim 20. No new matter has been presented in Claims 1 or 14. Claims 1-4 and 6-57 remain in this Application and are presented for the Examiner's reconsideration in light of the above Amendments and the following comments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Claims by the current Amendments. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

II. 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Blanc-Brude*, U.S. Patent No. 5,906,883. Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons:

1. Applicants' invention, as now presented in Claim 1 by Amendment and in Claims 21 and 40, requires a **plurality** of collapsible, non-adhesive protrusions extending outwardly from the front face of the film.

2. Contrary to Applicants' system, *Blanc-Brude* discloses a slotted substrate in the form of channels that forms a continuous network. See Col. 2, lines 23-27. A continuous network is not a plurality of collapsible, non-adhesive protrusions.

Due to these considerations, *Blanc-Brude* fails to teach and every element of Applicants' invention. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection with respect to independent Claims 1, 21, and 40. Because dependent Claims 2-4, 13, and 16 all depend directly or indirectly from Applicants' independent Claims 1, 21, and 40, they contain all of their respective limitations. For this reason, Applicants submit that the arguments made above concerning the allowability of Claims 1, 21, and 40 are equally applicable to the rejection of Claims 2-4, 13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection to Claims 2-4, 13, and 16.

III. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Calhoun, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,589,246 in view of *Blanc-Brude*. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1-57 under

U.S.C. §103(a) over *Hamilton*, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,589,246 in view of *Blanc-Brude*. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

For the sake of brevity, previous arguments regarding the *Blanc-Brude* reference remain in effect and will not be repeated. Additionally, the Examiner is respectfully urged to consider the following additional matters that distinguish Applicants' invention as now presented over *Calhoun*, *Hamilton*, and *Blanc-Brude*:

1. Each of Applicants' Claim 1, 21, and 40 requires a number density of protrusions. In particular, Claims 1 and 21 require a number density of protrusions from about 10 per square inch to about 175 per square inch, and Claim 40 requires from about 50 per square inch to about 150 per square inch. *Blanc-Brude* is silent with respect to the number density of protrusions.

2. *Calhoun* is silent with respect to a required number density of protrusions. However, Example 1 of *Calhoun* discloses a film having about 36 protrusions per square centimeter. See Col. 13, lines 43-46. Thirty-six protrusions per square centimeter converts to approximately 5.5 protrusions per square inch, clearly outside of Applicants' claimed range.

3. Further, there is no suggestion in *Calhoun* to provide protrusions in Applicants' claimed ranges.

4. *Hamilton* is silent with respect to the number density of the conical protrusions disclosed.

5. *Blanc-Brude* is silent with respect to the use of a substrate layer bonded to the back face of the film material.

6. Additionally, *Blanc-Brude*, *Calhoun*, and *Hamilton* are silent with respect to Applicants' Claim 21 limitation of requiring a peel force of at least about 0.3 pounds per linear inch.

Because of these considerations, the *Blanc-Brude*, *Calhoun*, or *Hamilton* references do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed adherent sheet material. The *Blanc-Brude*, *Calhoun*, or *Hamilton* references fail to disclose, teach, suggest, or render obvious, either singly or in combination, every recited feature of Applicants' independent Claims 1, 21, and 40. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over *Blanc-Brude*, *Calhoun*, or *Hamilton* to Applicants' Claims 1, 21, and 40.

Because dependent Claims 2-4, 6-20, 22-39, and 41-57 all depend directly or indirectly from Applicants' independent Claims 1, 21, or 40, they contain all of their respective limitations. For this reason, Applicants submit that the arguments made above concerning the allowability of Claims 1, 21, and 40 are equally applicable to the rejection of Claims 2-4, 6-20, 22-39, and 41-57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection to Claims 2-4, 6-20, 22-39, and 41-57.

IV. Summary

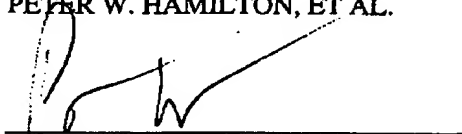
Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that each of Applicants' remaining claims

is in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is requested.

This response is timely filed pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and M.P.E.P. §512, and no fee is believed due. However, if any additional charges are due, the Examiner is hereby authorized to deduct such charge from Deposit Account No. 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER W. HAMILTON, ET AL.



Peter D. Meyer
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,792
(513) 634-9359

March 31, 2003

Customer No. 27752

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims:****The Claims have been amended as follows:**

Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 58-62 have been withdrawn without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended as follows:

1.(Amended) An adherent sheet material comprising at least one adhesive, non-raised region protected from inadvertent adherence to a contact surface, comprising:
a film having a front face and back face, said front face having a plurality of collapsible, non-adhesive protrusions extending outwardly from said front face and said adhesive, non-raised region disposed between said protrusions, said protrusions having a number density from about 10 protrusions per square inch of said film to about 175 protrusions per square inch of film; and
a substrate layer bonded to said back face of film.

14.(Amended) A sheet material according to claim [1]20, wherein said air venting channel is at least one aperture disposed within a plurality of said protrusions.